

Kyrene Think Tank

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Group 2 Feedback

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Summary

Participants emphasized the need for future graduates to gain skills that will prepare them for success in the workforce and life. To ensure students gain these skills, participants suggested that a variety of partnerships be forged that would reinforce/reward students and their teachers in a variety of formal and informal programs.

Question 1: What skills do our future graduates need?

- Critical thinking
- Finance
- Communication
- Teamwork
- Basic Skills
 - Writing
 - Listening
 - Math
 - Problem solving
- Financial fluency
- Adaptability
- Checkbook
- Survival for Life Skills
- Flexibility
- Decision making
- Global perspective
- Learning how to learn
- Diversity
- Social skills
- Leadership
- Technology
- Creativity/ innovation
- Ask H.S. what is needed – what's missing
- Understanding cooperation with business world
- Goal planning and achieving
- Organizational/study skills
- Self-direction
- Community awareness (political, boards, volunteers)
- All students have the opportunity to meet full potential
- Clear vision for entire life
- Wellness
- Life long learning (concept of)
- Self esteem
- Competent

- Awareness of talents
 - Other language
 - Performing art
 - Mechanical experiences
- Values
- Compassion
- Fun

Question 2: How can Kyrene ensure that our students will have these skills?

- Cash/discount prizes and awards for growth/ progress
- Engage parents in learning process
- Immediate response/remediation
- Long range planning is integrated to financial planning
- System of integration and priorities and tracks dynamics
- Build cooperative alliances to fill gaps
- More curriculum based competitions
- Reward creative thinking
- Evaluation of each student (progress monitoring) so you can respond quickly
- Ongoing teacher training
- Best leaders (teachers)
- Clear of expectations and communicate with parents and staff
- Screening/interviewing teachers with these skills
- Technology
- Properly implement programs (as intended)
- Line of communication, other agencies
- Time for reflection and priority setting (within the school day)
- Teacher training
- Let legislature know of needs in schools
- Research based practices
- Critical thinking/ philosophy for all
- Communication with H.S. – what’s falling between cracks
- Effective decision making process
- All (staff) buy into program/ decision
- Restructure school day
- Make it simple and easy
- Integrate foreign language as young as possible
- Choice to explore or learn rigorously
- Safe and healthy environment in KSD
- Shared responsibility (parents, school staff)
- Short term goals – measurable and timely
- Allow for real life experiences – speakers and trips
- Motivational speakers: I will, I can. . .
- Exposure to H.S. students as role models
- Reward/ recognition for these skills
- Students make own life and learning choices
- System needs to be adaptable
- Allow students to fail

- Support classroom management
- Proactive system (as not to impede learning)
- Hire teachers who foster these skills

Question 3: List examples of community partnerships that would benefit Kyrene students.

- Partnerships with companies (Intel, etc.)
 - Current biographies
 - ASU students (i.e., engineers to be, etc.)
 - Small business owners
 - Female and male
 - Real life experiences
 - Hands-on (change at grocery)
 - Banks – adaptable skills
 - Credit banking (math curriculum)
 - Budgeting (technology curriculum)
- Mentors, i.e., woman business, various industries
- Wealth of knowledge
 - Parents, family, veterans
 - Parents as partners (i.e. budget & money)
- Opportunities after school – speakers
- Integrate specific speakers in curriculum
- FUN! – Fun and learning not mutually exclusive
- Signature programs
 - Fine Arts
 - Dual Language
- Educate parents on upcoming curriculum – communication
- Collaborate with after school programs (remediation – tutoring) (experience care – retirees)
- Cultural experiences
 - Restaurants, tours
- National League of Cities
 - Youth, families, education
 - Proactive stance
- Conversation with business community partners for restructuring school time.
- Include ASU/Global perspective with people from other countries
- ASU for global – college design initiative
- Energizing current partnerships – cultivate political support
- Acknowledge baby steps forward
- Partner with less fortunate districts
- Grant awareness – unique funding
- Partnerships (community) for teachers – locally, nationally – inter nation ally
 - Communication
- Grants to have cultural exchanges for teachers
- Reward thinking outside the box
- Provide lunch
 - Community partner to provide
- Partner with restaurants to provide food for meetings
- Ask for more

- Communicate/ invite businesses for sponsorships
- Audit Think Tank to see what's been done/not ready to pursue